

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 are pending in this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection of claims 7 and 9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Doiron U.S. Patent No. 5,698,866.

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman U.S. Patent No. 6,413,268 in view of Doiron and claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman in view of Doiron and Tankovich U.S. Patent No. 5,817,089. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Hartman reference, which issued as a patent on July 2, 2002, has a filing date of August 11, 2000. It was not published, nor does it have any other priority claim.

In contrast, the present application is a divisional of application No. 09/203,178, filed on November 30, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,283,956. As originally filed, pending claim 7 in the present application corresponds to originally filed claim 18 in the parent application.


Consequently, the rejections are based on a reference that is not available as prior art. Since both rejections rely on Hartman, both should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 595982000211.

Dated: April 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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